

Prime Minister Pearson's Visit to London

ACCOMPANIED by Mrs. Pearson, the Prime Minister visited Britain as the guest of the British Government from November 21 to 27, 1967. He received an honorary degree from the University of London on November 23 and the Freedom of the City of London on November 27. The visit coincided with the devaluation of the pound on November 18 and with the Cyprus crisis, and thus facilitated a direct exchange of views between the Prime Ministers of the two countries on these and other current topics.

Mr. Pearson's schedule began with a press conference on the afternoon of his arrival. On November 22, after a meeting with Prime Minister Wilson at 10 Downing Street, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson were guests at a lunch held in their honour by the Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. George Thomson. Mr. Pearson later met with representatives of the Salonika Reunion Association, the members of which had taken part in the 1917 campaign in Salonika, in which he had participated. He then received the provincial agents-general resident in London.

Social Events

On November 23, the Prime Minister was host at a lunch at the residence of the High Commissioner. Among those present were the Right Honourable James Callaghan, the Right Honourable Denis Healey, the Right Honourable Anthony Crosland, the Right Honourable George Thomson, the Right Honourable Frederick Mulley, Lord Chalfont, the Right Honourable Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the Right Honourable Jeremy Thorpe and Mr. Arnold Smith, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat. In the evening, Mr. Pearson received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of London. The degree was presented by the Chancellor of the University, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The following day, November 24, Mr. Pearson was received in audience by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Later, he and Mrs. Pearson were guests of Her Majesty at lunch.

On the weekend of November 25 — 26, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson were guests of the Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. Thomson, at Dorneywood, the official country residence at the disposal of the Foreign Secretary and the Commonwealth Secretary, and at dinner with Prime Minister Wilson at Chequers on the Sunday afternoon.

Guildhall Ceremony

The major event of the Prime Minister's final day in London, November 27, was the presentation to him of the Freedom of the City of London. The ceremony began at noon with the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Pearson in an open